

# TRAVERSING ANCIENT TRAILS IN REGION OF GREAT HISTORIC INTEREST

(BY H. D. S.)

IT IS an interesting and richly historic region that the American troops are passing through on their hunt after Villa and his bunch of assassins. Gen. Pershing's column entered Mexico over a road known in late years as the Mormon road, because the earlier established Mormon colonies were reached over that route, before the present Mexican Northwestern railroad was built. But for half a century before that route had been known as the "Smugglers' trail," as it was used by smugglers operating between the American border and the interior of Mexico.

Col. Dodd's column from Hachita passed over a road that dates back far beyond the earliest days of the Spanish settlements in the southwest; the road was a great Spanish highway 250 years ago. For untold ages before the Spanish occupation, the same road had been followed by the various tribes of Pueblo Indians of the region, and by their persecutors, the nomadic Indians who preceded the Apaches and Comanches and other southwestern plains Indians of our day.

The first investigations by Mormon pioneers as to the possibilities of settlements in the Casas Grandes country were made in the late '70's, before the Mexican Central railroad was built. Some years later, in the early '80's, the first lands were taken up, and the Mexican Central railroad was used for passage of settlers and goods, although an overland trip of about 115 miles was necessary to reach the first colonies. Later the road from Columbus was opened, and the colonies were reached direct over a somewhat shorter and easier route. Colonia Juarez was the first important colony. Diaz, Morelos, Oaxaca, Pacheco, Garcia, Chichupala, and others followed in the late '80's and early '90's, with Dublin established about the time the Mexican Northwestern railroad (then the Rio Grande, Sierra Madre & Pacific) was started out of Ciudad Juarez (1896).

Before the "Sierra Madre" railroad was built, a syndicate of Mormon capitalists and others had promoted a railroad from Deming via Columbus to the Casas Grandes colony region; this was the John W. Young

project. An effort was made to interest the New York owners of the Corralitos ranch and the San Pedro or Candelaria mines; but these people later decided to build the railroad themselves directly out of Ciudad Juarez to the mines and Casas Grandes. The Columbus project then lapsed. Part of the roadbed had been graded, and the present wagon road follows the old grade for some distance.

The old "Smugglers' trail" which ran from Columbus and Palomas to Chihuahua had several branches after reaching the mountains. One branch followed the old Spanish and Pueblo road from Casas Grandes through Chocolate pass up the Santa Maria river; another struck off into the timber some 40 or 50 miles west of Casas Grandes and headed for the sources of the Chico river (a tributary of the Arroyo Yagui river), thence skirting the Babicora plain into the valley of the Papigochic or Concepcion river, and up the valley to Guerrero, formerly known as Concepcion; thence into Sinaloa, Durango, and the Parral district.

All this region is one of ancient settlement. The Casas Grandes or "great houses," now in ruins, have been in ruins for 400 years at least, as the very earliest Spanish chronicles record them as the subject of traditions. They were probably inhabited anywhere from 500 to 1000 years or more ago. The whole region is full of remains of the cave dwellers and cliff dwellers, and signs of ancient irrigation by primitive methods. Science has never determined to its own satisfaction whether the cave and cliff dwellers were contemporary with the pueblo dwellers, or whether they preceded or followed them. But all date back into hoary antiquity, far back of any written record now available.

The Guerrero district is in the edge of the Tarahumari Indian and Temocho Indian regions, and the river valley even 20 years ago populated chiefly by blood connections of those tribes was most primitive in every way, scarcely touched by modern civilization; metal of any kind was practically unknown. All through the valley were mission churches dating back 200 years or more, some of them in ruins, all in bad repair.

The Mexican government never had a very strong hold on the mountainous region inhabited by exceedingly independent and warlike tribes of Indians. "Tax insurrections" were frequent. About 22 years ago the

Temocho Indians rose in revolt and made a raid clear to the border, taking Palomas; they were soon put down, but never fully pacified. The Tarahumari Indians, remnants of the very ancient tribes of the region, had considerable development in the domestic arts such as fabrics and pottery; they were ardent hunters, but they were perhaps most noted for their wonderful endurance as runners. Their sports and games consisted chiefly of running races, for girls as well as men and youths, and the races covered very long distances in almost incredibly short time. The renegade Apaches driven out of Arizona and New Mexico made their last stronghold in the Sierra Madre 100 miles or so southwest of Casas Grandes, where probably a few scattered remnants remain to this day.

The old road followed by Col. Dodd's column south from Hachita is part of the ancient Spanish trail connecting central Mexico with what is now New Mexico and Arizona, and connecting New Mexico and Colorado with California. A hundred years ago, copper ore from the Santa Rita mines (now Chino) was packed over this ancient trail to the City of Mexico. After the Santa Fe trail was opened up from the Missouri river to Santa Fe, this old road became one of the branches by which trade was carried on with western Mexico. Another branch—also an ancient Spanish road—passed through El Paso and down the valley to Guadalupe, thence to Chihuahua.

Before and during the war with Mexico, no other route from El Paso to California was known than this old road via Santa Rita, Hachita, and Janos, through Guadalupe pass to the Santa Cruz valley and Tucson. The long detour into Mexico was made necessary by the lack of water, or supposed lack, and supposed impassability of the more northerly route later discovered. Most of the "forty-niner" emigrant traffic passed over that older Mexican route into southern California. Kit Carson, Fremont, and all the early pioneers traveled it. It was the great highway of that day, and there is hardly a mile of it without its history and tradition of ferocious Indian raids. By this route the ancient Spanish presidios and missions were linked up.

Col. Dodd's men passed over a part of this road, thence to Ramos, another old settlement, and to Casas Grandes. From this point the old Spanish road and Pueblo trail passes southeast through Chocolate pass

and up the Santa Maria river, a branch probably having struck easterly toward Laguna; and on to Chihuahua and the interior of Mexico.

Much of the region to be covered by our troops is heavily timbered, and much of it is rich in mines, though development has been slow owing to difficult transportation. Cattle and horse raising, with a little scattered agriculture, have been the principal industries, so far as the Mexicans are concerned.

Chicago estimates that scarlet fever last year cost the city \$978,830 in money, besides the deaths, and that much of it, both the money and the death loss, could have been prevented if the disease had always been properly reported and quarantined, blaming both doctors and citizens that proper precautions were not taken. People who object to a quarantine on account of this serious disease imperil the world as truly as does an anarchist with his bomb or assassin pistol.

A ratio of 1 to 500—1 soldier to 500 population—is a minimum figure for an efficient and adequate standing army. That means 200,000 now, and is about equal to the average metropolitan police force in proportion to population.

European war news is struggling back onto the front page.

Villa isn't looking for anybody from the United States right now.

Fortunately the last thing the American troops desire to do is to occupy a Mexican town. The open country looks good to them.

Uncensored news from the front: The American troops are moving south.

Is Germany getting ready to take on Holland as an open adversary?

Strange how the British advance in Mesopotamia is marked by so many strategic retreats.

Even St. Patrick's day passed without a riot.

## Short Snatches From Everywhere.

An officialholder who thirsts for praise sometimes has to resign to get it.—Atlanta Constitution.

It is within the power of every man to be his own worst enemy or best friend.—Albany Journal.

Beware of imagining that you are as good as people who like you say you are.—Albany Journal.

Never argue with a man who is over 70 years of age, or with a woman of any age.—Chicago News.

At least we have Villa to thank for his promotion of the preparedness campaign.—New York Tribune.

Nobody is pinning any medals on Mr. Mann for his "leadership" of the house minority.—Boston Herald.

We can't see the duma holding up any of the czar's supreme court appointments.—Indianapolis News.

They say that a dog will lick the hand that smites him, but it is a wise man who studies his dog.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

What a wonderful old world this would be if the men who think they know it all could only prove it.—Los Angeles Tribune.

Perhaps Villa presumed too far on the published information that the new secretary of war is a pacifist.—Providence Journal.

Pacifists' decision to "make a noise like a silence" pleases everybody. You can simply hear a pin drop in Washington.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Hon. Jeff. McNamee insists on the colon following his given name. Is he sure it should not be a hyphen.—New York Evening Sun.

Recent events in the vicinity of Verdun show why the expedition from Berlin to Paris was personally conducted through Belgian territory.—New York World.

Among the historic sieges of history must be included Port Arthur, Adrianople, Przemyśl and the Russian politicians around Justice Hughes.—Meriden Journal.

Chicago's salary-graft scandal indicates that there may be more privileges desired by the suffragists than the mere casting of the ballot.—Nashville Southern Lumberman.

If it be true, as is reported from Sweden, that Germany has so mined the entry to the Baltic as to make it highly dangerous for ships to pass, then Germany seems to have removed the chief legal flaw in Great Britain's blockade of Germany.—New York Globe.

## All College Men Wanted At University Club Dona Ana County Getting Rich Off Of Milk

"WE want to emphasize the fact," said A. W. Norcor, "that every man who shall have become a member of the University club by April 1 will be a charter member. Those who have already identified themselves with the organization enjoy no other privileges than will those who shall have become members prior to the date of the dinner. All will be charter members who are in by the time a charter is applied for. Those who have so far undertaken the organization of the club are practically a committee on organization and their is more or less a thankless task. Their only privilege so far has been and will be to put in considerable time getting other university men lined up. They, like those who are now becoming members, have filled in application blanks showing that they possess the necessary qualifications for membership and they are paying the same organization fees as all others. The organization is not in any sense a close club or an organization for a few. It is a university club, an organization for university men. Every university man should be as much interested in its success as those who have so far been most active in the matter. It is strictly nonpartisan, nonsectarian and nonpolitical. The necessity of every man who is eligible to membership getting in touch with the organization of the club is one cannot be too strongly emphasized. Those who wish to become members of the club should procure application blanks and hand them to the president or secretary not later than March 21 in order that we may know who will be members by April 1 and in order that the proper arrangements may be made for all at the dinner. There are many university men in the city that those acting in the organization of the club do not know are university men. Blanks have been mailed to everyone whose name has been handed to us, but we are every day encountering other men whom we knew nothing about. Some men seem offended because they have not been approached and asked to become members of the club or because their names have not been published as being members. This is their own fault. They ought at least to meet us half way and make themselves known by getting in touch with us. We have no authority to constitute a man a member of the organization without his making his desire to become a member known to us nor without his applying to possess the qualifications necessary. It is for the purpose of determining a man's qualifications that the application blanks have been provided."

"Dona Ana county, New Mexico, is growing rich from supplying El Paso with milk," said P. H. Barber, a Dona Ana county agriculturist. "Our county is shipping daily to El Paso 800 gallons of milk and receiving for it 20 cents a gallon. Since the first of the year 27 carloads of dairy cows have been imported into the county from dairy centers all over America and in addition to this four carloads of brood sows. We are also planting 150 acres of beet sugar as an experiment and if it is successful we will plant more in 1917. The seed is of the German variety and similar to the best that is raised in Colorado and Utah."

"If arrangements could be made for a vaudeville circuit to be routed through El Paso on its way to the Pacific coast and eastern cities it would prove a big entertainment for citizens," said C. D. Parks of Los Angeles. "By vaudeville I mean the first class acts, such as those constantly playing on the Pantages, Orpheum and Hippodrome circuits on the coast, and which are by far the most popular form of amusement."

## ABE MARTIN



Many were greatly surprised to hear of the wedding of Mr. Anglee Moots, as he was supposed to be doing so well. You have to be mighty careful what you say in these days of rubber heels.

(Protected by Adams Newspaper Service.)

ment in that section of the country. El Paso has two theaters where these acts could be staged, and I am sure that if the right class of vaudeville was obtained it would be a paying proposition to the theatrical manager."

"The military activity has had a strong tendency to keep Don Cupid in hiding, judging from the number of marriage licenses issued during the last week," said Chris Aranda, deputy county clerk. "All records of the county clerk's office for the past few years have been broken during the last three days when not a license has been issued. This is going some as compared with five and six licenses issued every day, as formerly."

"Business men in the east are greatly interested in El Paso," said John T. Cain. "Dun's recent visit to Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, Cleveland, New York and other cities, I met many business men, and all were conversant with El Paso's rapid growth and bright prospects. They cannot understand, however, how we can grow in the face of the disturbances in Mexico, and predict wonderful things for us when Mexico is again tranquil. There is a strong sentiment favorable to preparedness in all the sections I visited. The whole country appears to be prosperous, but no section struck me as being as prosperous as El Paso."

"The prospects are bright for greatly increasing the strength of company K, Fourth Texas regiment," said Capt. Walter Jenkins, commander of the company. "The recent war scare has brought out a number of young men and we have already had 20 enlistments, bringing the company's strength up to 55 men. I am desirous of getting the company recruited up to war strength, and inquiries that I am constantly receiving indicate that we will have no trouble in still further increasing the strength of the company. I have been informed by a Texas militia officer that company K averages

higher than any other Texas company in the size of men. We have just recruited one who measures six feet four inches."

"By removing the partition back of our church auditorium we have now increased the seating capacity of the church 150 seats," said Rev. C. J. Wade of the Calvary-Houston Square Baptist church. "This has been made necessary by the increase in the church attendance of the congregation. The Sunday school has also become much larger, and the primary department has been moved to the cottage next door to the church, which the church has recently purchased. This will be used for the first time Sunday."

"I never realized there were so many Irishmen in El Paso as this St. Patrick's day," said Dave Mulcahy. "There were a lot of faces that made me have my doubts, but after all, it's the Irish heart that counts, and if the world is going to be any merrier for it, then let all who wish and all who care wear the green and be Irish for one day at least. The rest of the year we Irish propose to remain Irish."

A dollar saved by buying goods produced elsewhere is a dollar thrown at your neighbor's birds."

## "HIS LAST STAND"

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## BY COFFMAN

## Complexions Can Be Made Over When Rusty Are Taken To Beauty Doctors For Repairs

BY HOWARD L. RANN.

THE complexion is an ornamental attachment to the feminine frontispiece. Sometimes this attachment is put on by nature and an outdoor life, but if necessary an excellent substitute can be obtained at any first-class druggist.

There are several varieties of hand-sewed complexions, ranging from the gentle Cleopatra pallor to the ancient crimson effect peculiar to the Indian queen. Some of the best complexions produced in any country are now to be seen on the American stage, and consist of four layers of cheek-bone paint and one application of eyebrow paste. When viewed at close range, this combination produces an effect similar to gazing on a futuristic picture of a storm at sea.

If the complexion is carefully handled in youth and is not marred here and there by an overheated curling iron it will last for a long time and make it unnecessary to wear a



refuse to spend money on wrist-watches, but stock up heavily on vanishing creams, heliotrope talcum powder and the non-alcoholic face lotion. The best way to keep the complexion

in a good state of repair is to take it to a beauty parlor and place it in the hands of providence. This should be done four times a week, after securing the consent of the husband and free access to his bank account. The beauty doctor can tell at a glance whether the old complexion can be fixed up and made to run a few more thousands miles, or whether it will have to have a new trend. This trend can be put on by a painless method, and, when properly applied, will permit the use of a broad smile without cracking.

The worst enemy of the complexion is the wrinkle. This is a small blemish which starts in the form of a shallow furrow, and unless removed by the foot of the massage roller will develop into a close resemblance to an irrigation ditch. Wrinkles are caused by thought, which accounts for the large number of perfect complexions in daily use. A person who desires to retain his complexion should not think on any one subject more than twice, and then only at long intervals.—Protected by The Adams Newspaper Service.

## BATTLESHIP KENTUCKY LEAVES FOR VERACRUZ

New Orleans, La., March 18.—The battleship Kentucky sailed for Veracruz early today. Officers declined to state why the Kentucky returned Friday after starting. Late last night 20 additional marines were taken aboard.

The ordinary cost of a Want Ad in The El Paso Herald is 25 cents. It reaches an average of about 100,000 readers each issue.

## "Dead Hung Like Grapes on Barbed Wire"

Below You May See Some of the "Grapes."

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## WIRE AND WAR.

A DISPATCH from Verdun describes the dead Germans, "hanging like grapes on barbed wire fences."

A Dutch cartoonist named Louis Rasmus-kors has made a drawing of the part that barbed wire plays in war. You see the drawing here. This picture gives a vivid impression of the desperate courage of the fighters—rushing in the face of bullets against the barbed wire, shot dead as they reach the wire and hanging there "frozen in the icy wind."

## Old Songs

LAST night I heard an ancient dame hum divers songs of bygone years, and tender recollections came, which filled my old green eyes with tears. "Oh, Birdie, I am tired now, I do not care to hear you sing"; thus warbled the withered frau, while darning socks, like everything. Beneath the bright Canadian skies I used to sing that simple lay; folks heard my boyish treble rise, and wished I'd quit, or go away. Where are the men who cried "Shut up!" and promptly sicked their dogs on me, when I, before their wickiup, turned loose that song in ecstasy? The beladame by my fireside waits, and sings old songs to you unknown, as "Wait for me at heaven's gates, sweet Belle Mahone, sweet Belle Mahone!" I used to sing the same sweet song, beneath the warm Canadian sun, and neighbors rang the chestnut gong, and put more buckshot in the gun. Old songs! Sweet songs! They blaze the track to bygone days and vanished scenes, before I had to break my back to earn the beefsteak and the beans.

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